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RURAL DISTRICT OF HAILSHAM

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1962

L. A. COLLINS, M.B., B.CH., D.P.M., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health

A N N U A L R E P O R T
O F T H E
M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H
T O T H E
H A I L S H A M R U R A L D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L
1 9 6 2

To the Chairman and Members of the Hailsham Rural District Council,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1962.

This was a very healthy year in the district and the incidence of infectious diseases was particularly low. However, the importation of five cases of Smallpox into the country at the beginning of the year engendered a general state of alertness. Again there were frequent outbreaks of 'epidemic vomiting disease' in the schools, and it seems that there is little that can be done about this relatively harmless, but rather irritating disease.

From the environmental point of view steady progress has been made with minor water main extensions, and with the sewerage schemes in their order of priority. However, probably the most important factor affecting the health of the population is the provision of adequate housing.

All members of the public health staff have worked hard and loyally throughout the year, and each member has contributed in some way to the production of this report.

May I once again take this opportunity of thanking the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their support during the year.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

L. A. COLLINS,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health (part time),
also School Medical Officer for East
Sussex County Council

Dr. L. A. Collins, M.B.,
B.Ch., D.P.M., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector and
Meat and Food Inspector

L. E. Scott, Cert. S.I.B.
Cert. M.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors
and Meat and Food Inspectors

M. F. Warman, Cert. S.I.B.
Cert. M.I.

R. R. Creasey, Cert. S.I.B.
Cert. M.I.
F.A.P.H.I.

A. J. Page, Cert. S.I.B.
Cert. M.I.

(from 1.10.62)

Sanitary Assistant and Rodent
Operator

J. F. Stanford

Rodent Operator

R. Cousins

Chief Clerk

R. S. Oak

Clerical Assistants

Mrs. M. Frost
Miss P. Mephram

Official Address

Public Health Department,
Cortlandt,
Hailsham.

Tel. No. Hailsham 206

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The total number of notifications received during the year was 105 compared with 419 for the previous year. This low number is partly accounted for by the fact that this was not an epidemic year for measles. Nevertheless the incidence of infectious diseases was remarkably low and only 2 minor observation cases were admitted to the isolation hospital compared with a total of 25 cases ten years ago.

There were no cases of poliomyelitis, typhoid or paratyphoid in the district during the year.

Measles

There were 53 notifications of measles compared with 361 for the previous year. Most of the cases occurred in the spring of the year.

Whooping Cough

There were only 6 cases of whooping cough during the year compared with 26 for the previous year. It certainly does appear that immunisation of the child population is having some effect on the incidence of whooping cough. Of the 6 cases notified, four had not been immunised and two had been immunised against whooping cough.

Scarlet Fever

There were 12 cases of Scarlet Fever compared with 11 for the previous year. Continuing the trend of recent years, all the cases were very mild.

Diphtheria

Again there was no case of diphtheria during the year, there having been only one imported case during the last fifteen years. However, small outbreaks in other parts of the country show how important it is to keep up the immunity index of the child population by regular immunisation.

Dysentery

The 7 cases of dysentery notified occurred in a female block of elderly patients in Hellingly Hospital. It was the same Flexner X type of dysentery as has occurred in past outbreaks over many years.

In addition a few cases of carriers or contacts of Sonne Dysentery reported from outside the district were investigated until shown to be free from infection.

Food Poisoning

Of the six cases of food poisoning two were due to Staphylococcal-toxin and four were infected with Salmonella-typhi-murium.

The four cases of Salmonella infection occurred in three families and they were all separate incidents with no connection between the families. It was not possible to discover the source of infection. In one family living in a caravan two other children were also shown to be infected as a result of bacteriological investigation. All cases were followed up until shown to be free from infection.

Malaria

The single case of malaria was a boy aged $3\frac{1}{2}$ years, who was considered to have contracted the disease in Tanganyika.

Smallpox

Despite small epidemics of smallpox in other parts of the country no direct contact of any case was reported in this district. As a precautionary measure all members of the public health staff were vaccinated in January. A few persons were reported by the Ministry as arriving in this district from ships where there had been a suspected case and these persons were kept under surveillance for the necessary period.

Tuberculosis

There were nine new cases of respiratory tuberculosis and one of non-respiratory tuberculosis compared with only three new cases of respiratory tuberculosis in the previous year. Such a fluctuation in numbers occurs by chance and is of no significance.

There were only three deaths attributed to respiratory tuberculosis compared with three for the previous year and no deaths were due to non-respiratory tuberculosis.

Mass X-ray

The following figures have been supplied by the Director of the East Sussex Mass Radiography Unit of Mass X-ray surveys carried out at Polegate during July, 1962 and at Heathfield during August, 1962.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total number X-rayed	269	358	627

Abnormal Films

Tuberculosis requiring occasional clinical supervision	1	1	2
Malignant disease (Bronchial Carcinoma)	1	-	1
Cardio-Vascular Lesions (Acquired)	4	3	7

SMALLPOX VACCINATION

1960	Vaccinations	362	Re-vaccinations	209	Total	571
1961	Vaccinations	387	Re-vaccinations	162	Total	549
1962	Vaccinations	902	Re-vaccinations	2,196	Total	3,098

It is clear that the epidemics in other parts of the country caused an increase in the number of vaccinations in this district.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The administration of the diphtheria immunisation scheme is centralised with the County Council but I personally conduct all diphtheria immunisation clinics within the district. During the year regular clinics were held at Heathfield, Hailsham and Polegate and occasional clinics at Arlington, Broad Oak, Chiddingly, Cross-in-Hand, East Hoathly, Hankham, Herstmonceux, Hellingly, Hooe, Horam, Laughton, Maynards Green, Ninfield, Pevensey, Punnetts Town, Selmeston, Waldron and Willingdon.

A total of 107 complete courses and 390 booster doses were given at these clinics.

The diphtheria immunisation index for the county as calculated by the Statistics Branch of the Ministry of Health is as follows:-

	<u>Under 5 years</u>	<u>Under 15 years</u>
Percentage of children in East Sussex immunised against diphtheria as at 31st December, 1962.	84%	79%

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948
NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951

Section 47

Action was taken under the above Act once in the course of the year in respect of an old lady living at Polegate. She had suffered for months from self neglect and when her own doctor called on her she was obviously very ill and not receiving proper care and attention at home, but she persistently refused to be admitted to hospital. In the emergency a Magistrates Order was obtained under the above Act and she was admitted to hospital. However, she died a few days later in hospital.

Apart from this case the conditions of many old persons living under insanitary circumstances were investigated, and some were persuaded to enter an old persons home on a voluntary basis.

Section 50

It was necessary for the Council to exercise their powers under this section in the case of a young man who fell over the Seven Sisters Cliffs at Westdean. It appeared that the mother and father were separated and the whereabouts of the father was unknown. The mother, who lived in Wales, was in receipt of National Assistance.

As a result of intensive enquiries by the Police the father was contacted and eventually sufficient funds were raised by the relatives and friends for the burial near the youth's home in Swansea.

CANCER OF THE LUNG

There were 36 deaths due to cancer of the lung compared with 32 in 1961 and 20 in 1960. Throughout the country the death rate from cancer of the lung continues to rise. It is now well known that there is a causal connection between cigarette smoking and cancer of the lung but considering the enormous amount of money spent on advertising cigarettes it is not surprising that there has been no real reduction in cigarette smoking. It is most important that the younger generation should be persuaded never to start smoking but even here it seems that the habit is often started when of school age.

VITAL STATISTICS

The corrected death rate was 11.9 compared with 12.9 for 1961 and 11.9 for the whole of England and Wales.

The corrected birth rate was 13.5 compared with 13.2 for 1961 and 18.0 for the whole of England and Wales.

The estimated mid-year population at 43,760 was 1,200 higher than that of 1961. As this increase of population is made up largely by migration into the district of older and retired people it is possible that the comparability factors do not account fully for the ageing structure of the population of the district.

There were eight infant deaths during the year giving an infant mortality rate of 14.8 compared with 4.0 for the previous year and 21.4 for the whole of England and Wales. The majority of the deaths occurred shortly after birth and were due to prematurity or congenital abnormalities.

STATISTICS

Area in acres	94,668
Census population (1951)	36,916
Population estimated to middle year	43,760
Number of inhabited houses	15,781
Rateable value	£621.819
Sum represented by penny rate	£2,536.1s.4d.

Total deaths per 1,000 population (not corrected)	16.6
Comparability factor	0.81
Total deaths per 1,000 population (corrected)	13.4
Senile mortality as percentage of total deaths (65 & over)	77.9%
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	1.0
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths	1.8

<u>BIRTHS</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate	509	253	256
Illegitimate	30	17	13
	—	—	—
Total live births	539	270	269
	—	—	—

Live births per 1,000 population (not corrected)	12.3
Comparability factor	1.10
Live births per 1,000 population (corrected)	13.5
Illegitimate live births per cent of total births	5.6%

<u>STILLBIRTHS</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate	10	6	4
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	—	—	—
	10	6	4
	—	—	—

Stillbirths per 1,000 live and stillbirths	18.2
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DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate	8	5	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	8	5	3
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total infant deaths per 1,000 live births			14.8
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births			15.7
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births			Nil

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS OF AGE

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate	7	4	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	7	4	3
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births)			12.9

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 WEEK OF AGE

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate	6	4	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	6	4	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)			11.1
Perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)			29.1

COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>Birth Rate</u>	<u>Infantile Mortality</u>	<u>Death Rate</u>
Hailsham Rural	13.5	14.8	13.4
England & Wales	18.0	21.4	11.9

CASES NOTIFIED OR ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL AND TOTAL DEATHS

Disease	Total Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	12	-	-
Whooping Cough	6	-	-
Measles	53	1	-
Dysentery	7	-	-
Pneumonia	18	-	-
Food Poisoning	6	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	-	-
Malaria	1	-	-
Other observation cases	-	1	-

NUMBER OF CASES REMOVED TO ISOLATION HOSPITAL EACH MONTH

Disease	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Measles	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rubella	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN AGE GROUPS

Notifiable Disease	Under 1 yr.	1 yr	2 yrs	3 yrs	4 yrs	5-9 yrs	10-14 yrs	15-24 yrs	25yrs & over	TOTAL
Measles	-	-	9	4	7	20	9	3	1	53
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	1	-	10	1	-	-	12
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	7
Whooping Cough	1	2	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	6
Food Poisoning	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	4	6
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	13	18
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Malaria	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1

TUBERCULOSIS

	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5 years	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24 years	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 44 years	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 64 years	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
	5	4	-	1	3	-	-	-

CAUSES OF DEATH

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	3	-
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases ..	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	12	4
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	29	7
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	12
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	2
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms .	34	40
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	-
16. Diabetes	4	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	41	57
18. Coronary disease, angina	90	63
19. Hypertension with heart disease	4	11
20. Other heart diseases	45	55
21. Other circulatory diseases	9	17
22. Influenza	1	4
23. Pneumonia	12	25
24. Bronchitis	23	12
25. Other diseases of respiratory system ..	2	2
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	4
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	2
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	2	3
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	5	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	1
31. Congenital malformations	3	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	21	33
33. Motor vehicle accidents	4	4
34. All other accidents	5	10
35. Suicide	3	-
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	357	370
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SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

All the main water in the district is now supplied by one Statutory Water Undertaking namely the Eastbourne Waterworks Company as that Company took over the Water Undertaking of the Bexhill Corporation early in the year.

Regular analyses of the water supplies proved that it was of a high standard of purity. In the Herstmonceux area there were again a few complaints regarding the chlorinous taste to the water supplied which is abstracted from a stream at Sheepwash Bridge, Cowbeeck. The stream in question is small and is subject to varying degrees of pollution but after treatment the water is always satisfactory although on occasions taste problems do occur.

Six further extensions of the water mains in various parts of the district were carried out during the year to serve isolated groups of houses and farms. In every case it was necessary to ask the property owners to make capital contributions of up to £200. per house so as to reduce the cost to the Council to reasonable proportions.

There still remain a few isolated areas without main water but it seems likely that these areas too can be provided with main water at reasonable expense if the owners in question are prepared to meet part of the expenditure by means of capital contributions.

Extension of Mains

Including the extensions referred to in the previous paragraph, the following lengths of water main were laid in the parishes of Alfriston, Chiddingly, Eastdean, Hailsham, Heathfield, Herstmonceux, Horam, Hellingly, Pevensey, Polegate, Ripe, Warbleton, Westham and Willingdon.

In the urbanised areas the extensions were mainly in connection with new building development.

1,472 yards of 2" main

2,519 yards of 3" main

6,296 yards of 4" main

480 yards of 5" main

1,594 yards of 6" main

DISTRIBUTION OF SUPPLIES

The following table details the distribution of piped supplies and from which it will be seen that approximately 89.9% of the population is provided with main water.

Parish	Estimated Population Supplied by Public or Private main	Number of houses supplied		
		By Public Main	By Stand Pipe	By Private Main
Alciston	129	24	-	31
Alfriston	531	226	-	-
Arlington	305	127	-	-
Berwick	173	55	-	24
Chalvington	106	40	-	-
Chiddingly	498	210	-	-
Eastdean	1,043	442	-	-
East Hoathly	414	181	-	-
Folkington	52	22	-	-
Friston	279	111	-	-
Hailsham	6,221	2,464	-	-
Heathfield	3,157	1,101	-	-
Hellingly	2,890	810	-	-
Herstmonceux	1,549	539	-	-
Hoe	249	98	-	-
Horam	1,581	580	-	-
Jevington	121	10	37	-
Laughton	239	86	-	-
Litlington	117	46	-	-
Lullington	28	11	-	-
Ninfield	1,115	421	-	-
Pevensey	2,515	1,280	-	-
Polegate	5,273	2,225	-	-
Ripe	133	51	-	-
Selmeston	73	27	-	-
Waldron	2,446	895	-	-
Warbleton	1,043	427	-	-
Wartling	428	146	-	-
Westdean	59	22	10	-
Westham	1,897	699	-	-
Willingdon	4,453	1,820	-	-
Wilmington	213	76	-	-
	39,330	15,272	47	55

Drainage and Sewerage

The new sewers and sewage purification works for the parish of Alfriston were completed in the early part of the year and all the properties formerly connected to the old sewer were re-connected to the new sewers.

The small scheme to serve 27 houses at Springhill, Punnetts Town, Warbleton was also completed and the many nuisances caused by cesspool overflows have now been abated by connection of the offending properties to the sewer.

The revised scheme for sewers and sewage purification plant for Windmill Hill, Herstmonceux together with the scheme for new sewers and sewage purification plant to serve East Hoathly were approved by the Ministry during the year and it is hoped that work on both schemes will commence in 1963.

Negotiations are proceeding for the acquisition of sites for sewage disposal works for both Wilmington and Ninfield which fall next to be dealt with in the Council's list of priority of sewerage schemes.

Some difficulties have been experienced during the year due to the obstruction of private sewers on new private housing estates with the consequential flooding of gardens and footpaths with sewage. In some cases these private sewers served large numbers of houses and the procedure to be followed under the Public Health Act, 1961 has proved rather cumbersome in view of the fact that the responsibility for the maintenance of the sewers has been conveyed by the estate developers to each individual owner-occupier. Accordingly the Council has carried out the clearance of such obstructed sewers as a matter of urgency but it does seem that consideration should be given by the Council to the taking over of many of these private sewers.

Removal of Night Soil

With the completion of a new sewerage scheme in Alfriston the Council agreed to contribute one half of the costs reasonable incurred in the conversion of earth closets or Elsan closets into water closets in accordance with Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936 so that night soil removal could be discontinued as soon as possible.

By the end of the year the earth closets at four properties were converted into water closets entirely at the owners expense whilst 17 applications for improvement grants had been approved and 7 applications for contributions under Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936 were under consideration.

It seems likely that the remaining earth closets in Alfriston will be converted into water closets during 1963 and thus bringing to an end the necessity for the removal of night soil.

Public Cleansing

A weekly collection of refuse is made in the parishes of Alfriston, Eastdean, Friston, Hailsham, Hellingly, Herstmonceux, Jevington, Ninfield, Pevensey, Polegate, Westham and Willingdon whilst a fortnightly collection operates in the remainder of the district which is rural in character. It is estimated that 65% of the houses in the area receive a weekly collection.

During the year the Council discussed the further extension of the weekly collection of refuse but decided that consideration should be adjourned for a period of 12 months.

Three Dennis paxit Majors with body capacities of 32 cubic yards, one Dennis Paxit with body capacity of 18 cubic yards together with two 12 year old side loading vehicles of 10 cubic yards capacity are regularly utilised for the collection of refuse whilst an old Dennis side loader fitted with a dual purpose body is used as a standby and comes into service when any of the other vehicles are undergoing repairs.

With the continued growth of the district, especially in the southern half, and the increase in the bulk of refuse to be collected it became clear that the two small side loading vehicles should be replaced by larger automatic loading vehicles as soon as possible if the regularity of the collection was to be maintained. As a consequence, the Council decided to purchase two new vehicles namely, a 50 cubic yard and a 35 cubic yard Shelvoke & Drewry Pakamatic Vehicle, for delivery in April, 1963. The larger vehicle will replace a 12 year old side loading vehicle whilst the intention is to replace the small 18 cubic yard Paxit by the 35 cubic yard Pakamatic vehicle, thus allowing the Paxit vehicle to be used as a spare when other vehicles are undergoing repairs.

The labour force including the Foreman Mechanic and the driver of the Bray Mechanical Shovel consisted of 31 men.

The cost of refuse collection and disposal for the financial year ended 31st March, 1963 was £26,540. an equivalent of a rate in the £. of approximately 10½d. It is estimated that approximately 9,583 tons of refuse were collected, i.e. an average of 11.99 cwt per thousand head of population per day.

During the year many special collections of junk such as old bicycle frames, car bodies, builders waste etc. were made from roadside verges, farm land etc. in an attempt to keep the countryside tidy but nevertheless fresh dumping of unwanted articles still occurs. Free collection of accumulations of old refuse were also given to many householders and this latter service has been much appreciated.

The provision of litter bins at lay-bys and other spots frequented by picnickers has gone a long way to overcoming the litter problem. In the summer months it was necessary for many of these bins to be emptied twice per week.

Refuse Disposal

Refuse is disposed of at three tips, namely (1) Mill Lane Tip, Hellingly, (2) Broad Farm Tip, Hellingly and (3) Ghyll Road, Heathfield, the latter tip being used only for the refuse from the northern part of the district, namely East Hoathly, Heathfield, Horam and Waldron.

Controlled tipping is practised with the aid of a Bray Four Wheel Mechanical Shovel. No manual labour is employed on any of the tips.

In the summer months the Mill Lane Tip became infested with flies despite the daily spraying of the surface of the tip with a D.D.T. dressing. Following discussions with the Entymologist from the suppliers of the D.D.T. dressing, it was found that a breed of flies resistant to D.D.T. had been produced. As a result Malathion was used with great success and the fly nuisance was overcome.

With the increased quantity of refuse to be disposed of, the available tipping space at both Broad Farm Tip and Mill Lane Tip, Hellingly has decreased and it seems necessary to find an alternative site within the next three or four years.

On several occasions during the year considerable damage was done to the large store shed at Mill Lane Tip and metal salvage and tools were stolen, culminating in the theft of an employee's bicycle. As a result legal proceedings were instituted against two men and one youth for larceny when fines were imposed.

Salvage

Due to the type of vehicles used in the collection of refuse, it is not possible to keep salvage separate except in very small quantities but a limited amount of salvage was recovered at the tips by the driver of the Bray mechanical shovel as and when time permitted.

The following quantities were disposed of for the amounts shown:-

	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Cwts.</u>	£.	s.	d.
Scrap Metal	1	16	8	19	8
Non-ferrous metals	1	6	74	18	6
Rags	7	10	89	16	2
Paper	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
	13	14	£ 186	16	5

Cesspool Emptying

Three Dennis Vehicles are employed on this necessary service. One operates in the parishes of Heathfield, Horam and Waldron where the cost is met by a special rate levied in those parishes. The other two vehicles empty cesspools in the remainder of the district on payment of £1. for the first load of 750 gallons and 12/6d. for every other part or complete load taken at the same time of emptying.

These charges have not been increased since the service came into being in 1949 despite increases in labour and fuel costs, etc. but of recent years the scheme has not been self-supporting and a contribution from the general rate fund has been necessary. For the financial year ended 31st March, 1963, this amounted to £1,411.

Until more areas are provided with sewers the demands for cesspool emptying must increase due to the number of cesspools being constructed when cottages in the rural areas are modernised.

Difficulties were experienced with the disposal of cesspool contents and it was necessary on many occasions to travel relatively long distances to a satisfactory disposal site. Normally agricultural land, woodland and scrub land remote from houses and streams are utilised as disposal sites.

During the year the Council decided to purchase a new 750 gallon Dennis Cesspool Emptying vehicle to replace a 14 year old vehicle which had reached the end of its economic life. Delivery of the new vehicle is expected in May, 1963.

Details of the work carried out by these vehicles are as follows:-

	<u>Cesspools Emptied</u>	<u>Loads Removed</u>
Heathfield, Horam and Waldron Scheme	1,366	1,950
District Scheme	2,348	4,505

Housing

With the completion of five three bedroomed houses, six two bedroomed and four one bedroomed flats at Ninfield, it was possible to deal with the worst slum clearance houses in the parishes of Ninfield and Hooe and in fact all these new dwellings were utilised for persons displaced from unfit houses. There still remain many houses in the district which need to be dealt with under the Slum Clearance procedure but progress in this direction cannot continue until more houses are provided by the Council for the existing tenants.

Many of the isolated country cottages are still being purchased as weekend residences by persons living in London or other large towns and the number of properties available for the local working people is thus being steadily reduced year by year.

Many owners have availed themselves of improvement grants and during the year 84 applications were received for Discretionary Grants. Of this number 72 were approved, 7 refused and 4 withdrawn, whilst one application was still under consideration at the end of the year. The average amount of grant was approximately £285. per dwelling. Of the 72 Discretionary Grants approved, 17 were in respect of agricultural service cottages, 19 in respect of rent controlled dwellings and 36 in respect of owner occupied houses. Repayment with interest was made in respect of 7 Discretionary Grants made in former years. Fifty one applications for Standard Grants were also approved during the year, normally for houses owner-occupied.

One application for a Certificate of Disrepair was received. Obviously the owners of the poorer types of property have not increased the rent as permitted by law but have preferred to receive the lower rent without carrying out repairs. The tenants of the very low rented cottages have in many cases carried out considerable repairs to make their homes fit for habitation.

As there were no Council houses built for general housing needs there has been an increase in the number of houses overcrowded. In many cases young married couples and their families have shared their parents home and there are cases of man and wife and three children sleeping in the one room.

The last houses built for general housing needs were in 1959 and families which should have been housed in 1959 and 1960 are still on the Council's housing list. There is a need for more Council houses for those families in the lower income groups. As the district has no large industries and is basically of an agricultural nature, the wage rates are, in many cases, low, and there is little hope of these families being able to purchase their own houses.

The Council do operate the Small Dwellings Acquisition Act and have in the past few years made many loans for the type of houses which normally the average building society will not entertain.

The intensive building development in the area has continued but from experience it has been found that these new bungalows and houses are occupied by persons retiring from the large towns.

PART 1 - APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR

(1)	Number of applications for certificates	1
(2)	Number of decisions not to issue certificates	Nil
(3)	Number of decisions to issue certificates	1
	(a) In respect of some but not all defects	Nil
	(b) In respect of all defects	1
(4)	Number of undertakings given by landlords under paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	Nil
(5)	Number of undertakings refused by the Local Authority under proviso to paragraph 5 of the First Schedule ...	Nil
(6)	Number of certificates issued	1

PART 11 - APPLICATIONS FOR CANCELLATION OF CERTIFICATES

(7)	Applications by landlords to Local Authority for cancellation of certificates	1
(8)	Objections by tenants to cancellation of certificates	Nil
(9)	Decisions by Local Authority to cancel in spite of tenants objections	Nil
(10)	Certificates cancelled by Local Authority	1

HOUSING STATISTICS

Number of houses demolished during the year as a result of formal or informal procedure	19
Number of houses closed under Sections 16 (4) and 17 (1) of the Housing Act, 1957	8
Number of families re-housed by Local Authority from houses the subject of Demolition or Closing Orders	18
Number of houses made fit after formal action under the Public Health Acts	3
Number of houses made fit after formal action under Sections 9 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1957	5
Number of houses made fit under Section 24 of the Housing Act, 1957	3

Caravan Sites

Regular visits were made to all the caravan sites within the area and I am pleased to report that with one or two exceptions the sites have been exceedingly well kept. All the larger sites are provided with all the amenities such as shower baths, hot water, water closets, laundry rooms, etc. and the holiday sites were much appreciated by the visitors. The number of licenced sites at the end of the year was 139 and details of the numbers of caravans on the respective sites are as follows:-

Number of Sites	103	14	2	4	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Caravans on site	1	2	3	4	5	6	10	12	20	25	26	40	50	75	150	250	350

At the end of the year legal proceedings were being taken against one site operator for contravention of the conditions of the site licence in as much as there were 24 caravans on the site when only 12 were permitted under licence. Proceedings were also instituted against a land owner for permitting the stationing of one caravan on his land without first obtaining a site licence.

There were one or two problems with gypsies during the year and I regret to say that generally these gypsies were a most untidy lot and when they moved from one site to another they always left their rubbish and litter behind them. There would appear to be several sites in the area where gypsies congregate for short periods during their travels around the countryside.

During the year a local person who owns some 30 - 40 caravans has caused considerable difficulties by letting his caravans and siting them in most unsuitable places without first obtaining planning permission and site licences. It has been necessary to require their removal from time to time but eventually they re-appear on some fresh site. Unfortunately it is not possible to take legal proceedings against the caravan owner who is creating the problem but only against the owner or occupier of the land on which the caravan is sited and in most cases the owner of the land has been persuaded, against his wishes, to accept caravans on his land.

The shortage of houses to let has encouraged many young couples in the lower income group to move into caravans as their permanent home, and the problem of caravans does appear to be an increasing one.

Consideration was being given by the Council to the provision of a residential caravan site within the area to accommodate some of the caravans referred to above.

Milk and Dairies

While the number of retailers delivering milk to individual houses appears to have fallen, their place is being taken by grocers who carry small quantities of milk for the convenience of their clients. There were 50 dealers registered, a net loss of seven. Samples of milk in course of delivery are taken every month and forwarded to the Public Health Laboratory at Brighton. Sampling is mainly concentrated on Tuberculin Tested Farm Bottled Supplies.

The results of the examinations are summarised below:-

<u>Biological Examination</u>	<u>No. of Samples</u>
Infected with B.abortus	1
Infected with B.melitensis	-
Infected with M.tuberculosis	-
Satisfactory	32
	—
	33
	—

Methylene Blue Test

	<u>Raw Milk</u>	<u>Pasteurised</u>
Satisfactory	27	7
Unsatisfactory	3	-
	—	—
	30	7
	—	—

Following the discovery of B.abortus in one sample of farm bottled milk, 71 quarter samples were taken from the milking herd concerned. B.abortus was isolated in the milk of one cow and the farmer immediately removed the animal from the herd and is understood to have sold it in the open market as he is permitted to do.

Food Inspection

The six slaughterhouses licensed for the year continued to operate and the number of animals slaughtered rose steadily during the year. All the premises comply with the Hygiene and Prevention of Cruelty Regulations. No slaughterhouse is licensed for the slaughter of horses.

Although an appeal for Town Planning approval for the erection of a slaughterhouse at premises not previously registered, and with an estimated throughput of 1,000 adult cattle and 4,000 "smalls" per week, was given in September, no indication of the view of the Minister of Agriculture had been received by the end of the year, twelve months after the submission of the application for a slaughterhouse licence.

Very little Sunday slaughtering took place except at the time of public holidays but killing normally continues into the early evening with resultant overtime being necessary. The arrival of a fourth qualified meat inspector in October, although easing the situation made, of course, no difference to the total number of hours overtime worked.

As mentioned above the number of animals slaughtered per annum has shown a further increase and the number of carcasses rose to a total of 13,491, the equivalent of 49,652 inspection units. This total was made up of 11 bulls, 450 steers or bullocks, 463 cows, 892 heifers, 1,400 calves, 3,533 sheep and 6,742 pigs. An estimated weight of 54,405 lbs of food were found to be unfit for human consumption, and included in the amount were the carcasses of 2 steers, 16 cows, 3 heifers, 15 calves, 21 sheep and 11 pigs, together with 1,766 head of poultry. Of the total amount condemned 31,492 lbs was accounted for by 489 cases of Honeydew Melons and 312 bags of potatoes which had been delayed in transit from Chile and Malta respectively.

It continued to be possible to arrange for unsound food to be burnt, buried on the refuse tips or forwarded for processing purposes other than human consumption.

Reference was made in last year's annual report to the need for the education of retailers of quick frozen productions in the efficient operation of their refrigerated cabinets and is it too much to hope that a "Code of Practice" will be forthcoming in the next year. Enquiries showed that few retailers had a check thermometer and most left it to the maintenance engineer on his routine visit, usually monthly, to ensure that the temperature was sufficiently low. The sale of "Frozen Foods" seems to be steadily increasing and refrigerated cabinets are appearing in all manner of food shops.

In addition to the slaughterhouses, visits are made to other food premises, particular interest being displayed in the "black sheep" of which there are but a few, fortunately. Regular visits are made to the markets and poultry packing stations.

Only minor infringements of the Food Hygiene Regulations were discovered and these were dealt with by informal action.

The establishment of two Espresso Bars in Hailsham has created problems from lack of sanitary accommodation and nuisance from noise. Additional sanitary accommodation has been provided in each case and it was considered prudent to obtain licensing control under the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890.

It is pleasing to note that there has been a general improvement in the cleanliness of bakehouses, though one such establishment reached a state when it was considered uneconomical to restore it to satisfactory condition and it was voluntarily closed down.

Several small baker's shops have, during the year, passed into the hands of one of the large Flour Millers' subsidiaries and improved premises have resulted.

No prosecutions have been taken during the year but warnings have been necessary regarding the sale of a loaf of bread containing oily matter, probably from a dough mixing machine; of mouldy sausage rolls, retained for sale by a roundsman; and mouldy crumpets, due to packaging whilst hot. Action taken in respect of the first two matters resulted in the sacking of the employees concerned. The bakehouses concerned are outside this Authority's area.

An isolated packet of Semolina flour was found to be moth infested. The source of infestation was not established but the attention of the seller and the packer was drawn to the matter. It transpired that it had been packed five months previously.

CONTRAVENTIONS OF FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS

Insanitary condition of walls, etc.	6
Food displayed less than 18" from ground	9
Equipment in such condition or so stored as to cause risk of contamination	6
Lack of hot water for cleansing of equipment	1
Smoking in food room	2

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS OF FOOD PREMISES

	Number in <u>District</u>	Total number of Inspections <u>Made</u>
Bakehouses	13	36
Butcher's Shops	29	59
Baker's Shops	19	23
Cafés, Snack Bars and Canteens	78	60
Fish Shops	12	24
Greengrocers	26	36
Grocers and General Stores	149	78
Hawkers	15	1
Public Houses and Guest Houses	111	39
Sweet Shops	37	21
Ice Cream Sellers (plus 58 catering establishments)	159	114

MISCELLANEOUS UNSOUND FOOD CONDEMNED

<u>Foodstuff</u>	<u>Weight in lbs.</u>
Meat/Poultry - home killed	22,098
Meat - Imported and/or processed	470
Fish	166
Fruit etc.	31,615
Miscellaneous	56
	<hr/>
	54,405 lbs.
	<hr/>

Carcases and Offal Inspected and
Condemned in Whole or Part

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep Lambs Kids	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	1,353	463	1,593	3,869	6,742	-
Number inspected	1,353	463	1,400	3,533	6,742	-
<u>All diseases, except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	5	16	15	21	11	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	111	82	6	44	315	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis or cysticerci	8.6	21.2	1.5	1.8	4.8	-
<u>Tuberculosis only -</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-	26	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	-	-	-	-	0.4	-
<u>Cysticercosis -</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrig- eration.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	-

Rodent Control

This has again been a year much occupied by routine work. The number of requests for treatment of minor infestations has shown an increase with a marked reduction of major infestations. Routine inspections carried out resulted in the finding of two particularly large infestations connected with milk farms. Minor infestations reported by householders often involve the inspection of a whole road of properties. Compost heaps and bird feeding are still the main contributing cause of this type of infestation.

The value of strict routine inspection of school canteens has shown its value by still further reduction in requests for assistance in dealing with both rats and mice.

The number of roadside verges used as picnic sites tends to increase from year to year and in spite of all the publicity given to the Litter Act more and more food scraps which are attractive to rats are found in these areas making it necessary for disinfection treatments to be carried out.

A number of complaints have continued to come in from occupiers of new properties in spite of stricter supervision of building sites and workmen's mess huts.

Regular inspection and where necessary treatment, of refuse tips, sewage works and other properties owned by the Council, has kept these lands and properties free from rats.

Although no 10% test baiting of sewer manholes has been carried out, a check has been kept on sewers where surface infestations have been linked with house drains since it is now the practice not to install interceptors in the connection to the sewer.

Ready mixed warfarin baits are being used more extensively by occupiers of agricultural premises and commercial pest control firms now undertake contracts in quite a number of business premises in addition to farm premises.

The reports received of suspected coypu have been followed up but could not be substantiated.

No Statutory Notices under Section 4 of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 were served.

Number of properties inspected (including re-inspections)

Non-agricultural	3,979
Agricultural	656

Number of infestations found (Rats and Mice)

Non-agricultural	(a)	Major	12
	(b)	Minor	514
Agricultural	(a)	Major	1
	(b)	Minor	3

Number of treatments (including re-treatments)

Non-agricultural	611
Agricultural	6

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 AND 1948

AGRICULTURE, (SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE PROVISIONS) ACT, 1956

No formal action has been necessary under these Acts.

A summary of inspections under the Factories Acts is given as an Appendix.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS

Housing Acts and Rent Act	308
Housing Act re-inspections	495
Complaints	135
Public Health Nuisances	152
Public Health re-inspections	131
Offensive accumulations	16
Keeping of animals, birds, etc.	58
Drains and sewers	237
Drains tested	26
Closet accommodation	59
Verminous premises dealt with	10
Infectious diseases	27
Rooms disinfected	18
Tents, vans, sheds, etc.	682
Pollution of watercourses	89
Water sources	111
Public Cleansing	1,135
Water analyses -	
Biological : Satisfactory 5 Unsatisfactory 5	10
Cesspool emptying	101
Rats and Mice destruction	990
Swimming Pools	-
Schools	-
Markets	58
Milk and Dairies	66
Factories, workshops, etc.	70
Smoke observations and visits	6
Slaughterhouses	1,313
Knackers yards	-
Meatshops, Fish and Fruit Shops, etc.	119
Grocers and General Stores	78
Bakehouses	36
Bakers Shops	23
Catering Establishments	60
Ice Cream Sellers	53
Sweet Shops	21
Hawkers premises and vehicles	1
Public houses and Guest houses	29
Poultry packing stations	65
Housing Applicants	510
Mosquitoes, wasps, flies, etc.	189
Noise Abatement	38
Licensing Act, 1961	8
Miscellaneous	305

7,838

APPENDIX

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1962 FOR THE RURAL DISTRICT OF HAILSHAM IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1937

PART 1 of the ACT

1 - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	19	4	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	206	87	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	-	-	-	-
Total	225	91	-	-

2 - Cases in which defects were found

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	1	2	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (a) Insufficient (S.7)	-	1	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or Defective	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outworkers)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1	3	-	-	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork

(Section 133 & 134)

	Section 133			Section 134		
Nature of Work (1)	No. of outworkers in August list required by Section 110(1)(c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwhole- some premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prose- cutions (7)
Wearing Apparel (Making etc. cleaning & washing)	3	-	-	-	-	-